

NEWS RELEASE

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 1997

For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

The budget deal: A raw deal for taxpayers and a sweetheart deal for politicians

Libertarians blast increased spending and new federal programs

WASHINGTON, DC — Do you like skyrocketing government spending, a more complex tax code, and new federal welfare programs?

Then you'll love the new budget agreement, said the Libertarian Party today — just like the celebrating Republican and Democratic politicians do.

"Don't pop the cork on that champagne bottle so quickly," warned Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party national chairman. "This budget deal is a raw deal for taxpayers and a sweetheart deal for politicians."

President Bill Clinton and Republican Congressional leaders yesterday celebrated the five-year budget agreement, which goes to the House on Thursday for a vote.

"Why are Republicans and Democrats so happy about this budget?" asked Dasbach. "It's because they get all their favorite things: *More* federal revenue to spend, *more* federal programs to administer, and a *more* complex tax code that lets them pick economic winners and losers.

"The only folks who aren't celebrating are average Americans, who get minuscule tax cuts wrapped in complicated red tape — while the total cost of the government goes up, up, up."

In fact, the five-year budget increases federal spending by \$270 billion, noted Dasbach — and thanks to the Republican-controlled Congress, those increases are coming at a *faster* rate.

"Republicans increased spending in 1996 by **\$48 billion**; increased it in 1997 by **\$63 billion**; and will increase it in 1998 by **\$70 billion**," said Dasbach. "In all, the GOP has increased non-defense expenditures by \$183 billion over the past three years — or \$31 billion more than the three previous years, when Democrats were in control."

But on Capitol Hill, politicians are giddy with joy. President Clinton said the budget is "fabulous." Rep. John Kasich (R-OH), House Budget Committee Chairman, gushed that "it's a dream come true." And House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-GA) called it a "bipartisan victory."

Dasbach disagreed. "The deal is fabulous for *politicians*, who can keep micromanaging our economic decisions with the tax code," he said. "It's a dream come true for *politicians*, who have more of our money to spend. And it's a victory for *politicians*, who can augment their empire with new federal programs, like federal health insurance for children.

"But for ordinary Americans, the long national nightmare of out-of-control federal taxing and spending continues. This budget deal doesn't change that — it makes it worse."

#

Watergate Office Building ♦ 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 ♦ Washington, DC 20037